

Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

Archie R. Cole School Cafetorium and Library

100 Cedar Avenue

East Greenwich, RI 02818

6:07 p.m. Executive Session (Cole Conference Room), Mrs. Winters made a motion to go into executive session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business exempt from open meetings under Rhode Island General Laws §42-46-4 and §42-46-5, (a) (2) Litigation: EGSC vs. EG Education Association KM2015-0717; (a) (2) Teacher Negotiations. Mr. Fain seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

Those in attendance were Ms. Carolyn Mark, Chair; Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters; Mr. David Osborne; Mr. Michael Fain, and Dr. Yan Sun (arrived at 6:47 p.m.). Dr. Deidre Gifford, Vice-Chair was absent. Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent; Mrs. Gail Wilcox, Director of Administration; Attorney Matthew Oliverio; Mr. Chris Cobain, Athletic Director; Mrs. Alexis Meyer, Cole Principal; Mr. Chris Boie, EGHS teacher; Ms. Donna Hayes, EG NEA President/Frenchtown teacher; and Mrs. Deb McMullen, Cole PE/Health teacher were also in attendance.

7:09 p.m. Joint meeting with the Town Council

I. Call to Order

Ms. Mark and Mr. Isaacs called the joint meeting of the School Committee and Town Council to order at 7:09 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

III. Recognitions

a. Brandon Zhang-Cole-The Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth

b. EGEF Spelling Bee Winners-Cole

c. Unified Volleyball Team-Division I State Champions-EGHS

d. Girls' Cross Country Class C Champions-EGHS

The School Committee, Town Council, and State Senator Mark Gee recognized and congratulated all students on their accomplishments.

IV. Annual joint meeting with the Town Council to review revenue/expenditure projections and discuss issues affecting preparation of the school budget RIGL 16-2- 21.2 (d)

Dr. Mercurio discussed the priorities and objectives of the Strategic Plan. Two major driving forces are the state-mandated implementation of full day kindergarten and the local decision to revise school start times. The high school and middle school are slated to start at 8:00 a.m. and all elementary schools at 8:50 a.m.

This will flatten the bus schedule from three tiers to two tiers. Governor Raimondo's workforce is examining the school funding formula and looking at various areas including the municipality's ability to pay. A recommendation will be given to the General

Assembly. State funding is projected to be lower than 2016, but is subject to change. The Finance Committee has been reinvigorated and has already met with most budget owners. Budget workshops have been scheduled for mid-winter and the district is poised to present the budget to the town by March 15, 2016.

Members of the Town Council were given an opportunity to ask questions about revenue/expenditure projections. Mr. Isaacs voiced his concern with the tax rate, asked for details on surplus funds, and would like the town/school to continue investigating shared services for technology. Clarifying questions were also asked about health care costs, fund balance, and tuition.

The School Committee and Town Council recessed at 7:46 p.m.

The School Committee reconvened their regular meeting at 7:52 p.m.

V. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

VI. Approval of Minutes

a. Regular and Executive for November 3, 2015

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the minutes.

VII. Superintendent's Report

PARCC statewide results were released at 1:30 p.m. today. District and school scores were well above state averages in ELA and Math. Results will be discussed further at the December 1st School Committee meeting. A community forum has been scheduled for

December 3, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at Cole to discuss the results with parents/community members. Individual PARCC results are expected in early December, but a definite date is not available yet. All fall athletic teams have completed their season with the exception of volleyball and football. Cole is hosting a hunger event on Friday, November 20th at 6:00 p.m. to raise student global awareness. There is no school on Wednesday, November 25th as elementary parent conferences and professional development at Cole and EGHS will take place.

VIII. School Committee Concerns

There were no concerns.

IX. Action Items

a. Appointments

1. Drama Asst Advisor-EGHS-Tim Kenney

On a motion by Mr. Fain, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the appointment.

2. HC Boys' Basketball-EGHS-Matthew Records

3. AC Boys' Basketball-EGHS-Don Bowen

4. HC Boys' Swim-EGHS-Regina Hand

5. HC Girls' Swim-EGHS-Regina Hand

6. HC Boys' Hockey-EGHS-Sean Fahey

7. AC Boys' Hockey-EGHS-Justin Carlson

8. Volunteer Coach Boys' Hockey-EGHS-Don Dunwoody

9. HC Boys' Indoor Track-EGHS-Peter Dion

10. HC Girls' Indoor Track-EGHS-Kyle Mushaweh

11. AC Girls' Indoor Track-EGHS-Erin Newman

- 11. HC Cheerleading-EGHS-Stacy Munzert**
- 12. HC Girls' Basketball-EGHS-Victoria Ahrens**
- 13. HC Wrestling-EGHS-Mike Penza**
- 14. AC Wrestling-EGHS-Tim O'Hara**
- 15. HC Boys' Basketball-Cole-Joe Symkowicz**
- 16. HC Girls' Basketball-Cole-Gary Faragalli**
- 17. HC Cheerleading-Cole-Taylor Hollinrake**

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Osborne, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve appointments #2-17.

b. Parental leaves

- 1. Sarah Sewatsky, Science Teacher, Cole**
- 2. Beth Gorter, Library/Media Specialist, Hanaford**

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Dr. Sun, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve parental leaves #1-2.

c. School Committee Policies-Second Read/Adoption

1. Policy Committee Charge

On a motion by Dr. Sun, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 5-0 to adopt the Policy Committee Charge.

2. #2160 Transportation Policy

The section regarding "Student Registration for Standard Bus Transportation," which was a pilot program was removed. The Day Care Transportation Request Form was replaced with an on-line form. On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 5-0 to adopt #2160 Transportation Policy.

X. Advisory/Subcommittee Update

a. Finance Advisory Committee

The Committee met last week to discuss their meeting with their budget partners. All have met with their partners, except two members. The Committee members did not find any surprise areas in the budget or any major areas for improvement. The budget partners will continue to finish meeting and develop their budgets.

XI. Discussion

a. All Day Kindergarten Update

Last week the kindergarten principals', teachers', and Mrs. Winters met to discuss all-day kindergarten scheduling looking at instruction, free play, and recreation time. Kindergarten teachers' were asked to draft a potential schedule. Teachers' discussed how they use paraprofessionals in their classrooms. The Barrington model is being examined. Itinerant scheduling is being addressed and is a major factor in collapsing bus tiers.

b. School Start Time Update

Dr. Mercurio and Mr. Babson have been in contact with Dr. Sharkey regarding the start time survey, which will be discussed at the next meeting. The school start time implementation plan will be presented at the December 15th School Committee meeting.

c. Senior Project Update 2015-2016

Ms. Gilden and Mr. Podraza provided an update on senior project. This is the second year the district has offered four pathways for

senior project. Mrs. Gilden provided a breakdown of the number of students in each pathway. Senior support class enrollment has increased this year. To date, the majority of seniors are up to date with their senior project. Ms. Gilden and the advisory board revisit deadlines, but have not felt the need to change them for the past five years.

d. Adopted Strategic Plan

This was discussed earlier during the joint meeting with the Town Council.

e. RIDE proposed Regulations Governing School Calendar and Length of School Day

The proposed regulations governing the school calendar and length of school day were discussed. The Committee would like to develop collective testimony in support of Mr. Podraza's testimony. Dr. Mercurio and the Committee would like to see more flexibility to promote best practice in learning.

XII. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Osborne, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 5-0 to adjourn regular session and reconvene executive session at 8:52 p.m.

CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO
SECRETARY